



MARINE
ENVIRONMENT
AND RESOURCES
FOUNDATION, INC.

Annual Report 2018

From the desk of the
PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Serving for the second term as President of the Foundation is an honor. Witnessing how we continue to grow in spite of the challenges coming our way can be ascribed to the dedication of the MERF members and the hard-working staff who have sustained the vision and mission of the Foundation for the past 27 years.

*This year we mark another milestone with the release of this annual report which we hope will encourage support from both the active and new members, including future members. We are excited and look forward to more **Meaningful Engagement** and projects on marine **Research** for the **Future**!*

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Foundation, we thank you.

Most sincerely,

Josefa R. Pante

*Ma. Josefa R. Pante
President*



Presenting the transformed MERF logo...

The **PROMINENT WAVE** symbolizes progress, integrity and stability of the foundation.

The **WAVE'S UNINTERRUPTED FLOW** symbolizes continuity in the service of marine ecosystems research, monitoring, and evaluation, including marine environmental education; the development of marine scientists and experts and capacity building; and the establishment of meaningful partnerships with various stakeholders.

The **HAND-SHAPED** figure to the left symbolizes the stewardship of the sea's resources through the responsible management of marine environmental grants and projects.

The **BOAT** cupped by the hand-shaped figure symbolizes the marine stakeholders who work for the marine environment; who guard and benefit from its services.

The **FISH** contour to the right symbolizes the abundance of life beneath our seas which constitutes a focus of our marine research projects.

“Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.”

– William Pollard

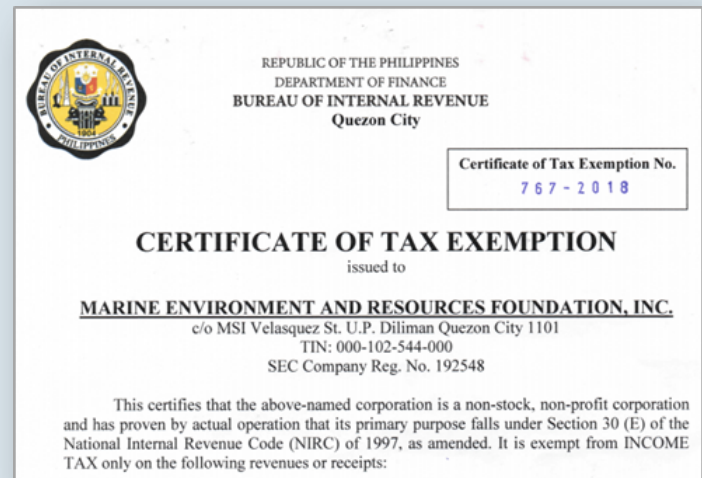
MILESTONES

MERF is now a DOST accredited science foundation. This means MERF members may apply for the Grants-In-Aid (Php5M GIA) program under the Department of Science and Technology and its grants-giving councils. The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on the guidelines and process of the GIA application through MERF will be sent to all the members soon.



DOST visited MERF, Inc. on September 18, 2018 at UP Marine Science Institute.

On October 5, 2018, MERF obtained its BIR Tax exemption certificate! It was approved since May 2018 but this status was neither released nor posted by the Commissioner's Office until the first week of October. The entire process of obtaining the certificate took 5 years, despite monthly follow-ups. **This means Donations and Contributions (Project grants covered under this) will no longer be taxed.**



SGP5-UNDP representatives handed the Certificate of Donation of Equipment to MERF, Inc. on December 7, 2018 at UP MSI.

On December 7, 2018, SGP5-UNDP-DENR-BMB successfully turned over the Certificate of Donation of the project's equipment to MERF, Inc. As per the Memorandum of Agreement with the SGP5-UNDP-DENR, all equipment purchased under the project duration will be properly turned over to the foundation after the acceptance of the Terminal and Audit Reports.

WELCOME

New Members



DEO "Deo" FLORENCE L. ONDA
UP MSI Assistant Professor

Education

Interuniversity PhD in Oceanography
(Microbial Oceanography)
Université Laval, Québec City
Québec, Canada

Research Interests

Host-symbiont interactions,
microbial biogeography, diversity,
dynamics and trophic interactions,
consequences of changing conditions
using -omics approaches (genomics,
transcriptomics and metagenomics)



MICHAEL "Maikee" Y. ROLEDA
UP MSI Professor

Education

Dr. rer. nat. (Biology)
University of Bremen, Germany

Research Interests:

Algal stress physiology
Applied phycology; Cultivation
Biodiversity
Ecophysiology
Photobiology



WILFRED JOHN "Fred" B. SANTIAÑEZ
UP MSI Assistant Professor

Education:

PhD in Natural History Sciences
(Biodiversity)
Hokkaido University, Sapporo
Hokkaido, Japan

Research Interests

Seaweed biology (biodiversity,
systematics, molecular phylogeny)
Biogeography
Ecology and Mariculture



CHARINA LYN "Cha" AMEDO- REPOLLO
Post-Doctoral Researcher

Education:

PhD in Oceanography
(Physical Oceanography)
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Hawai'i, USA

Research Interests

Coastal and island circulation
Dynamics of surface layer and
air-sea interactions
High frequency radar and satellite
remote sensing



2018: Completed MERF Projects

Project Title	Funding Agency	Project Leader	Project Duration
(Alumni FF Cohort Yr 3) Conduct of Biophysical and MPA MEAT Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation of the Alumni Fish Forever sites of RARE in the Philippines	RARE Inc.	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D. (Michael Atrigenio)	March 01, 2017 to October 30, 2018
(UNESCO-IOC) Global foundations for reducing nutrient enrichment and oxygen depletion from land based pollution	UNESCO	Cesar Villanoy, Ph.D. Gil S. Jacinto, Ph.D.	March 17, 2017 to March 31, 2018
(ONR-GLOBAL) NICOP – Diurnal Variability of Winds Around the Philippines	Office of Naval Research	Cesar Villanoy, Ph.D.	January 20, 2017 to January 19, 2018
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (USC-ACIAR) Expansion and Diversification of Production and Management Systems for Sea Cucumbers in the Philippines, Vietnam and Northern Australia.	University of Sunshine Coast	Marie Antoinette Meñez, Ph.D.	May 2012 to March 31, 2018
(SNP-SANDFISH) SNP Marker Development for Genetic Traceability of Farmed Sandfish, <i>Holothuria scabra</i>	DA-BAR	Rachel June R. Gotanco, Ph.D.	January 09, 2016 to January 8, 2018 (extended until July 08, 2018)
(DENR-BMB and SGP5-UNDP) Initiating Bioregional Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation on the Benham Rise Seamount	DENR-BMB SGP5-UNDP	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D. (Miraflor P. Sanchez)	March 10, 2016 to July 30, 2018
FISH RIGHT Program Scoping Phase	University of Rhode Island	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D. (Samuel Mamauag)	May 2018 to October 2018 (extended until Dec. 2018)
Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) Design and support the uptake of innovative models for valuing mangrove, sea grass and coral reef ecosystem services with the potential to enhance the sustainability of marine-based enterprise and marine spatial planning in select coastal communities in Indonesia and the Philippines	University of Queensland	Cesar L. Villanoy, Ph.D.	July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2018
Philippines 3 Fish Forever Cohort Year 3 Monitoring and Evaluation Program for Philippines 3 Fish Forever Cohort	RARE, Inc.	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D. (Michael Atrigenio)	February 2017 to December 2017 (extended until Dec. 2018)
Fish Forever Prototype Year 3 To conduct of Continuing Monitoring and Evaluation for the prototype site implementation of Fish Forever in the Philippines	RARE, Inc.	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D. (Michael Atrigenio)	October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 (extended until Dec. 2018)

Ongoing MERF Projects

Project Title	Funding Agency	Project Leader	Project Duration
ICBG Diverse drug lead compounds from bacterial symbionts in tropical marine mollusks	Oregon Health & Science University	Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D.	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019
CONUS/TURRIDS Collect and process Conus/Turrid snails from the areas surrounding the Philippines	University of Utah	Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D.	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019
ACIAR-Coral Restoration Restoring damaged coral reefs using mass coral larval reseedling	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) (ACIAR)	Patrick C. Cabaitan, Ph.D.	July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020
SARGASSUM Assessment of the Production Capacities and Development of Managed Harvest Technologies for the Conservation of Natural Stocks of Sargassum	DA-BFAR	Gavino C. Trono, Ph.D.	April 2017 to March 2020



New MERF Projects

Project Title	Funding Agency	Project Leader	Project Duration
Baseline monitoring and evaluation of long-term impacts on fish stocks from coral restoration (ACIAR-CRA)	ACIAR	Patrick C. Cabaitan, Ph.D.	June 22, 2018 to June 30, 2021
Increasing technical skills support community based sea cucumber production in Vietnam and Philippines Pay 1 (ACIAR SANDFISH)	ACIAR	Marie Antonette Meñez, Ph.D.	October 01, 2018 to July 01, 2023
NICOP – Observation of the Northwest Luzon Coastal Current	(ONR-NWLCC)	Cesar Villanoy, Ph.D.	October 25, 2018 to May 24, 2019
Fish Right Program Year 1	University of Rhode Island	Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D.	November 01, 2018 to October 31, 2019
Baselining Persistent and Emerging Organic Pollutant Levels in Environmental and Engineered Systems (USAID PEER PEOPLES)	USAID	Caroline B. Jaraula, Ph.D.	November 01, 2018 to October 31, 2019

Members

Aliño, Lualhati L..	Licuanan, Wilfredo Y., De La Salle University
Aliño, Porfirio M. , Marine Science Institute-UP Diliman (MSI-UPD)	Lluisma, Arturo O., MSI-UPD
Arceo, Hazel O. , UP Cebu	Magdaong, Evangeline T. , MSI Project
Azanza, Rhodora V. , MSI - UPD	Mamauag, Antonio Samuel S., MERF Project
Cabaitan, Patrick C., MSI - UPD	McGlone, Maria Lourdes S.D., MSI-UPD
Cabrera, Olivia C., Inat. of Environmental Science and Meteorology (IESM) – UPD	Meñez, Marie Antonette J., MSI-UPD
Concepcion, Gisela P., MSI - UPD	Montaño, Marco Nemensio E., Retired
Conaco, Cecilia G., MSI-UPD	Montebon, Augustus Rex F., Conservation International – Phil.
Cruz, Lourdes J., MSI-UPD	Nacorda, Hildie Marie E., School of Environmental Science and Management-UP Los Banos (SESAM-UPLB)
David, Laura T., MSI-UPD	Pante, Ma. Josefa R., MSI-UPD
De Venecia, Mary Bernadette B., MSI Project	Reyes, Lilibeth S., MSI-UPD
Ferrera, Charissa M., MSI Project	Rodriguez, Maria Vanessa B., MSI-UPD
Fortes, Edna G., retired	Salmo III, Severino G., Ateneo de Manila University
Fortes, Miguel D., JICA Project, Future Earth	Samson, Maricar †
Gomez, Edgardo D., MSI-UPD	Siringan, Fernando P., MSI-UPD
Gotanco, Rachelle June R., MSI-UPD	Trono, Gavino G. Jr., MSI-UPD
Horigue, Vera Christine F., MSI -UPD	Uychiaoco, Andre Jon B., University of Rhode Island Project – Phil.
Jacinto, Gil S., MSI-UPD	Villanoy, Cesar L., MSI-UPD
Jaraula, Caroline B. , MSI-UPD	Yñiguez, Aletta T. , MSI-UPD

Chairman: Maria Lourdes San Diego-McGlone

President: Ma. Josefa R. Pante

VP Treasurer: Olivia C. Cabrera

Secretary: Mary Bernadette B. de Venecia

Members: Marie Antonette J. Meñez

Vera F. Horigue

Antonio Samuel S. Mamauag

MERF Staff 2018

Finance Officer: Marinelle D. Gonzales (Jan-June 2018)

Ronabelle D. Ruaro (Sept-Dec 2018)

Accounting Officer: Pemmie B. Tamayo

Admin. Assistant: Jacquelyn P. Ignacio

Driver: Bonnen Arcangeles

Board of Trustees and Officers 2019

Chairman: Maria Lourdes San Diego-McGlone
 President: Ma. Josefa R. Pante
 VP Treasurer: Olivia C. Cabrera
 Secretary: Mary Bernadette B. de Venecia
 Members: Deo Florence L. Onda
 Antonio Samuel S. Mamauag
 Charina Amedo-Repollo

MERF Staff 2019

Managing Officer: Miraflor A. Pandela-Sanchez
 Finance Officer: Ronabelle D. Ruaro
 Accounting Officer: Pemmie B. Tamayo
 Admin. Assistant: Jacquelyn P. Ignacio
 Driver: Bonnen Arcangeles



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